

8 April 1987
MLD-7014

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

FROM : Chief, FBIS London Bureau

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report -- London Bureau -- March 1987

I. GENERAL

1. Internet transmissions were interrupted briefly during the month due to unforeseen BBC Monitoring Service concerns. The bureau resumed a full transmission schedule by the end of the month once signal standards converters and encoding equipment had been installed. An Internet first was achieved on 18 March in servicing a request from the BBCMS for a copy of an Okinawa Bureau-monitored Moscow TV program "Man, Earth and Universe." The program was transmitted from Headquarters via Internet to the bureau, which passed the recording directly to the General Manager.
2. The BBCMS modernization project continued to progress, albeit somewhat delayed as construction of the new building extension slipped 5 weeks behind schedule. Nonetheless, computer hardware installation remained on schedule for a May deadline. The next phase of the automation portion of the project is software testing which, although not yet scheduled, is expected to take approximately 18 weeks.
3. According to Godfrey Offord, Head of Reception Department, BBCMS, the 2.8M KU band dish at Caversham Park became operational at the end of the month. Efforts were to begin shortly to initiate a cruising program.
4. The Reception Department underwent a major management reorganization effective 30 March. Instead of two senior assistants, there will be two "organizers" each responsible for a group of monitoring teams. They will also handle non-technical coverage functions formerly exercised by the senior assistant for coverage, as well as recruitment, training and quality control functions formerly the responsibility of the senior assistant for output. Assistant Head of Reception [] will temporarily fill the position of Organizer, Soviet Monitoring for the English, Russian and Soviet regional teams until a replacement can be found. [] has been appointed Organizer for European and Middle Eastern Monitoring; i.e., all the remaining monitoring teams. A new post of Manager, Broadcast Reception Services has been created with overall responsibility for insuring that the collection and distribution of radio and television signals for monitoring teams meet coverage targets; that research work into

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international broadcasting and the drawing up of operational schedules continue to meet requirements; and that technical/operational change is planned and coordinated in the Listening Room and associated areas. The post will also have editorial responsibility for the publication "World Broadcasting Information." [redacted] has been appointed to this post effective 23 March.

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5. In other BBCMS management developments, [redacted] assumed the post of Deputy General Manager on 30 March with major responsibility for the modernization project. [redacted] will continue as acting Head of Personnel and Administration until March 1988.

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II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. On 10 March the bureau introduced new Headquarters guidelines on selection from Yugoslav sources of routine party or government documents. This will allow the bureau to hold lengthy TANJUG Serbo-Croat versions in favor of textual processing from the press by Vienna Bureau. The guidelines are being cautiously applied to other East European sources.
2. Effective 29 March, the BBCMS transferred coverage of Moscow in Turkish and Moscow in Greek to Tel Aviv and Nicosia bureaus respectively, thereby implementing an agreement reached at the 1986 FBIS/BBC coordination meeting.

B. Communications

1. Despite the activation of Vienna Bureau's new circuit via Croughton Switch on 13 March, several outages, one lasting 5 days, resulted in extensive relay of Vienna traffic by bureau communicators until the circuit settled down at the end of the month.
2. With the installation of standards converters to change Internet television transmissions to NTSC, operators have been undergoing training to operate the equipment, particularly color adjustment of incoming signals for use when the system is fully operational.

C. Lateral Services

At the end of the month the bureau began distribution of the Muslim World Roundup directly to the General Manager, BBCMS at his request.

D. Technical

1. Bureau technicians fitted improved paper transports to the Autodin Facit printers during the month, thereby virtually eliminating paper jamming due to poorly perforated fanfold paper.
2. As anticipated, the bureau-designed and -constructed interface unit installed at mid-month in the Islamabad Unit for use on the Caversham audio circuit substantially reduced the hum which had plagued the system for recorded feeds. However, audio degradation continues to be a problem on live feeds.

III. ADMINISTRATION

Personnel

1. Senior Editor [] arrived PCS on 27 March. STAT
2. Hqs Engineer [] assumed duties as acting chief of the Islamabad Unit in mid-month to free Unit Chief [] for a training TDY. STAT
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IV. VISITS

To the bureau: Chief/FSB [] 5 March for Internet discussions; Hqs Ops Center officers [] STAT
17 March for bureau briefing and orientation; Hong Kong Bureau Associate Editor [] 30 March for bureau orientation. STAT

From the bureau: Bureau Chief [] to Cologne 3-4 March for coordination and 13-30 to Headquarters for the bureau chiefs conference; Bureau Admin Officer [] to Frankfurt 19-23 March for an admin support conference. STAT



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Attachments

cc: Chief, Austria Bureau
Chief, Cologne Unit
Chief, Islamabad Unit
Chief, Okinawa Bureau